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TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

A Publication Concerned With Natural History and Conservation

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

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The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

– Founded 1879 –

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Objectives of the Club: To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

Club Publications: THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, a quarterly devoted to reporting research in all fields of natural history relevant to Canada, and TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a quarterly providing articles on the natural history of the Ottawa Valley and on Club activities.

Field Trips, Lectures and other natural history activities are arranged for local members; see "Coming Events" in this issue.

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THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB
Box 3264, Postal Station C
Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4J5

Information:
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Joyce M. Reddoch, *Editor*
548 Rivershore Crescent
Gloucester, Ontario K1J 7Y7

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 4

Welcome, New Members

Ottawa Area

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Sally A. Chapman
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Birgit D. Dessaulles
Harriet Enns
Peter & Wendy Farrington
Katherine & Eric Fletcher
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Melanie J. Dent
Barbara J. Elliott
Karen A. Farrand
Elaine Flaherty
Trish Flindall
Genevieve F. Fox
Jean Gagnon
George E. Gore
Barbara J. Griffiths
Olga S. Howe
David R. Hurley
Mrs. Valerie King & family
Mrs. I. Koningstein
Dr. P. Larose
Cecile Loubert
Ann MacKenzie & Doug Giddings
Shaun J. McLaughlin
Eleanor McSheffrey & family
Janice L. Monahan
Liis Painter
Daniela Planka
Benjamin Pomerlan
Peggy Robinson
Elizabeth Sinclair
Henry J. Starzyrski
Louise C. Sullivan
C. Martin Taylor
Mr. Philippe Tranqui
Gerard Vanderzon & Jean Brown
John & Doreen Wood

Other Areas

Gary Bruce Bowen
Greenfield Park, Quebec

Lorraine Brown
Leith, Ontario

Herbert A. Brown
Bellingham, Washington

Gerry Madigan
Belleville, Ontario

Hattie Miller
Clearwater, B.C.

Tom Reaume
Ballinafad, Ontario

Mr. & Mrs. O.R. Simonyi
Halifax, Nova Scotia.

July 1989

Karen Richter
Chairman,
Membership Committee.

Call for Nominations for OFNC Council

The Nominating Committee is responsible for filling the positions of officers and other Council members for 1990.

We would like to remind Club members that all may nominate candidates for the Council. Nominations require the signatures of the nominator and seconder, and a statement of willingness to serve in the specified position by the nominee. Some relevant background information would be helpful.

The Committee will also consider any suggestions for nominations that members wish to submit.

Nominations and other data must be sent to the Nominating Committee, The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, Box 3264, Postal Station C, Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4J5, to arrive no later than November 15th, 1989.

Call for Nominations for OFNC Awards

Nominations are requested from Club members for the following awards:

Honorary Membership
Member of the Year
Service
Conservation
Anne Hanes Natural History Award.

Descriptions of these awards appeared in *Trail & Landscape* 22(4): 188 (1988). With the exception of Honorary Membership, all nominees must be members in good standing.

Nominations and supporting information must be received no later than December 15th. Submit them to W.K. Gummer, Chairman, Awards Committee, 2230 Lawn Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario K2B 7B2.

from the Editor...

Every issue of every volume of *Trail & Landscape* is different - different in content (obviously) and different in circumstances. More than most, this Volume reflects the way manuscripts arrive in fits and starts. Sometimes there are only a few articles ready to go, while at other times there are many in the lineup awaiting their turn to be printed. Lately, the latter situation has prevailed. Many of the articles that appeared this year were received in late 1987 and early 1988. I am relieved to have finally got them all into print and want to thank the authors for their patience.

But now the flow of manuscripts is very slow, so this is the time for you to get your observations and thoughts on paper and send them in.

As usual, a number of reviewers around Ottawa and across the country have examined the manuscripts and have made recommendations. The high standards of *Trail & Landscape* are maintained as much by the reviewers as by the editors. In addition to those reviewers listed last year, I thank Don Cuddy, Michel Gosselin and Lynda Maltby for their contributions of time and expertise.

Judy Hall and Peter Hall made their own contribution to maintaining the standards of *Trail & Landscape* with their efficient and much appreciated job of proofreading each issue. I was fortunate also that Allan Reddoch continued to allow himself to be drafted to proofread last-minute items.

At the end of this Volume, three important members of the *Trail & Landscape* staff are resigning after many long years of service. Dorothy Greene has been responsible for finding proofreaders since at least 1975, Lisa Meyboom has been Coordinator of the mailing team since 1980 and was a member of the team for two years before that, and Marc Guertin has been the graphics department since 1978, making the additional contribution of four new front covers for 1988. I could not have managed *Trail & Landscape* for so long without such exceptional people.

This issue marks the end of my tenth and last year as Editor of *Trail & Landscape*. I have been associated with this journal for most of its 23-year existence, which I realize is most of my adult life. I typed the very first issue in 1967, contributed my first article in 1969, was appointed an Associate Editor in 1971, became responsible for production in 1979 and accepted the title of Editor as well in 1980. Now, after editing and producing almost 2500 pages, it is time for me also to

Shaw Woods in May

move on. Quite a few projects that I set aside in 1980 are still waiting to be done!

I am most grateful for the support that Associate Editors Peter Hall and Bill Gummer have given me over the years. I also appreciate the work of Typing Coordinator Jim Montgomery and all the typists and proofreaders who have volunteered over the last decade.

Elizabeth Morton has agreed to succeed me. The Council has provided her with a desktop publishing system to make the jobs of editing and producing less time consuming and more efficient. My best wishes to her!

Joyce Reddoch

Council Report

Bill Gummer

General

Eileen Evans has recently resigned from the chairmanship of the Membership Committee. We wish to thank her for her long-time work in this area, and are glad that she will remain on the Committee. Other things like New Members Night have also profitted from her energy and planning ability.

The Council approved a motion in February making the Great Horned Owl the official Club emblem. We are familiar with it on our decals, our shoulder patches and our Award certificates, and probably many of our members assumed it was already the emblem.

Birds Committee

The Committee has been invited to participate in the Ontario Rare Bird Breeding Atlas Program, to be responsible for Ottawa-Carleton and Prescott-Russell. The subcommittee established to coordinate this work will be chaired by Marg Benson, winner of the 1988 President's Prize. The first year's efforts will concentrate on organization and research of existing habitat.

Conservation Committee

The program of this Committee continues to involve a long list of subjects and areas. A major aspect at this time is concern about Ontario legislation and practices in subjects including wetlands, Crown Land timber management, The Wildlife Act, The Ecological Reserves Act and Provincial Parks Management Planning. The Committee is involved in all these by provision of comments and participation in discussions.

The Wildlife Garden, named as a goal in 1987, has not yet been established, but potential areas were identified and one is of real interest and now under negotiation. We hope to see final site selection and some actual work done in the near future.

The Alfred Bog Committee will be working towards formulating bog management policies. Its activities continue to generate interest and additional funds.

Macoun Field Club Committee

Some effort has gone into preparing guidelines for leaders and seeking an appropriate legal definition of "leader" for insurance purposes. The club has had a generally successful year with speakers and field trips. However, we wish to make the point that there is room, indeed need, for additional volunteers to assist in leading Saturday field trips. There is a particular need for volunteers with knowledge of the flora and fauna commonly seen on such trips, or with particular natural history expertise.

Roy John has examined the Macoun Field Club's "rare book collection", which is carefully housed by the Canadian Museum of Nature (National Museum of Natural Sciences) library on Walkley Road. This is a startling collection. There are 34 books on subjects covering aspects of plants, animals, insects, geology, archaeology, anthropology, and some equipment, for example, a microscope. Some of the books were published in the 1800s, and a few are not known to be available elsewhere in Canada. Many show their age and would require careful handling. Among authors are Darwin, T.H. Huxley, J. Macoun and Taverner.

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club should try to find a sensible way of making this collection more available to seriously interested members.

Publications Committee

The main item faced by this Committee was the decision of Joyce Reddoch, who has been Editor of *Trail & Landscape* since Volume 14, to retire with the completion of Volume 23 in 1989. Joyce has brought *Trail & Landscape* through those 10 years as an eminently successful and valuable Club publication, now established as a quarterly. We can be very sorry that she just won't go on forever, but we can also be very grateful for what she has done for the Club over those 10 years.

We have appointed Elizabeth Morton to replace Joyce. "Liz" has experience working with Francis Cook on *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* and also headed the special group that brought out *Lichens of the Ottawa District* as a Special Publication of the Club. The change of editors led to discussion of the best way to move in the matter of equipment to ease the preparation of *Trail & Landscape* and, looking to the future, the Council has now authorized the purchase of desk-top publishing equipment. Thanks to a recent legacy to the Club from the estate of Edith Mary Stewart, the purchase price has been nicely covered.

Joyce has had bound the official set of *Trail & Landscape* and also the old *Newsletter*. This is something that has been talked about for years, and now it is done. ¤

The 1989 Soirée

Jeff Harrison

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club held its eighth annual Soireé at the Unitarian Church on Friday, April 29th. About 120 people attended the wine and cheese party in the church hall followed by the presentation of Club awards in the assembly hall.

The Excursions and Lectures Committee organized the affair in its usual smooth and efficient style - many thanks to the committee members involved and other Club members who worked behind the scenes to make the whole event so successful.

During the wine and cheese many long-time members had a chance to see and talk to old friends and to meet new members with the accompaniment of some lively piano and clarinet duos by those well-known musicians, Bill Gummer and John Furlong. Macoun members displayed their latest projects and had a chance to meet the adult members. A photo exhibition was again presented in the assembly hall and everyone was able to view and vote for their favourite photographs.

The focal point of the evening was the presentation of the 1988 Club awards, including the President's Prize. Details can be found beginning on page 108 of the last issue. Ellaine Dickson carved the beautiful Mountain Bluebird presented to Dan Brunton, winner of the Anne Hanes Natural History Award.

The Macoun Field Club presidents, Judith Smith (Juniors), Roger Gaertner (Intermediates) and Heather Hunt (Seniors) reviewed the past year's activities of their groups. Prizes were also presented to the winners of the Macoun exhibits. First Prize was awarded to Severn Day for his Wasp Nest Diorama. Second Prize was awarded to Rebecca Danard for her display on Mud, and Third Prize went to Melanie Lussier for her display on Raccoons.

The quality of photographs exhibited was again very high this year. First Prize went to Cliff Rounding, who was also last year's winner. Honourable Mentions went to Melanie Lussier and Bill Gummer.

Many thanks to Master of Ceremonies Philip Martin for his contribution and to all those who attended and made the Soireé a happy event. See you next year!

The photographs of Macoun Field Club members on the opposite page are by Ken Taylor.

Roger Gaertner
President, Intermediates

Judith Smith
President, Juniors

Severn Day
First Prize, exhibits

Heather Hunt
President, Seniors ¤

In Memoriam: Ibra L. Conners

The Club mourns the passing of one of its really long-time members, Ibra L. Conners. He joined the Club in 1933 and was active until his retirement from the Central Experimental Farm in 1962 at the age of 67; and then from his home in Indiana he was still corresponding with Club members at the age of 93. He contributed to the Alfred Bog Fund last year. He passed away on May 12th, 1989 in Lafayette, Indiana.

Ibra Conners joined the Farm in 1929 as mycology curator and his many years of work on plant diseases led to his book, *Annotated Index of Plant Diseases in Canada*, published in 1967. He became a member of our Council in 1942, and was Treasurer in 1942-46, producing the Club's first annual budget. Then, through his good management of, for instance, the Audubon Screen Tours being sponsored by the Club, a significant start was made on the Club's financial soundness. He became an Honorary Member in 1988.

The Club suffers in the loss of a member of such long service and interest.

A New Book on John Macoun

W.A. Waiser, who supplied additional information for the Club's reprinting of *The Autobiography of John Macoun* a few years ago, has published a book entitled *The Field Naturalist (John Macoun, The Geological Survey, and Natural Science).*

This book is available from The University of Toronto Press, 10 St. Mary Street, Suite 700, Toronto M4Y 2W8, and until further notice can be obtained for $24. a copy, plus $2.50 for postage and handling. This is a reduction of 20% from the regular $30. cost and it should be noted that the discount can be obtained only by using one of the flyers distributed by the printer. As long as available, flyers can be obtained by calling the Club number (613-722-3050) or from Bill Gummer (613-596-1148).

Waiser reviews Macoun's career as an explorer and naturalist, as Dominion Botanist and then as Geological Survey naturalist. His prolific collecting activity made the Survey's collection the finest in the land, and his work helped establish the need for a national museum of natural sciences in Ottawa. Waiser also discusses problems encountered with preservation of specimens and with identification of species.

Club Publications and Other Items For Sale

Lichens of the Ottawa Region (I. Brodo)	$ 9.95
Autobiography of John Macoun	12.50
Transactions of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club and The Ottawa Naturalist - Index	25.00
Songs of the Seasons (Centennial Bird Record)	9.50*
Same, on tape	11.50*

For all of the above, add $2.50 for postage and handling.

A Guide to the Geology of the Ottawa District	1.50
A Guide to the Geology of the Gatineau - Lièvre District	1.50
Butterflies of the Ottawa District (Trail & Landscape 16(1))	3.00

For these items, add $1.50 for postage and handling.

A Birder's Checklist of Ottawa	0.75
Ottawa District Bird Field List (tick sheet)	3 for 0.50
Owl Hasty Notes	3.00*
Club pin	3.00*
Shoulder patch	0.75
Owl Decal	0.75

For these six items, add $0.75 for postage and handling.

Please note that starred (*) items also require 8% sales tax to be included by Ontario residents.

Back issues of both *Trail & Landscape* and *The Canadian Field-Naturalist* are available; quotations will be supplied on request.

For mail orders for any of the above, send your requests along with a cheque or money order (payable to the Club) to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, Box 3264, Station C, Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4J5. These items are often available at monthly meetings; make your purchases there to avoid the extra charges.

Nature and Natural Areas in Canada's Capital (Brunton) is usually available (for $9.95) at monthly meetings. It can be ordered from The Ottawa Citizen, 1101 Baxter Road, Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4, for $9.95 plus $1.85 for postage and handling. ¤

Birches

My leaves are yellow now. Soon I will sleep -
not just the little sleep of cold and snow,
but final, crumbling slumber, warm and deep,
like kindly earth, that we were, long ago.

Mine is a hardy breed. Struggling in youth -
an undistinguished shoot of mottled brown,
homely as alders, gnawed and trampled down,
the ugly duckling of the undergrowth.

After many winters, bursting forth
supple, tall, erect, and purest white,
placid as spruce amid moonlight or snow,
or etched on clifftops, heralding the north.

Now, in old age, tattered, gnarled and gray,
sparse of leaf and creaking in the breeze,
but useful still - a beetle's paradise,
prized by squirrels or a hungry jay.

Now these several sturdy saplings grow
out of my old, twisted roots and base.
I gave them half my sun and half my air,
my rain, and more sap than my roots could spare,
for the joy of knowing that in my place
birches still will prosper when I go.

So my leaves fall. Soon I am done with giving,
done with cold and snow, and love, and living.

David Fraser

Fifteen Years in the Life of an Orchid Colony*

Joyce M. Reddoch and Allan H. Reddoch

Wildflower lovers often go back to the same place every year to enjoy their favourite plants in flower. But do they wonder how long these plants have been growing there and how long they will continue to be there?

In 1973 we came across an attractive little colony of Tesselated Rattlesnake-plantain (*Goodyera tesselata*) with four flowering spikes near Shilly Shally in Gatineau Park. Because the colony was easy to get to, we fell into the habit of visiting it once or twice a year to monitor its progress. We are still doing so a decade and a half later.

The Tesselated Rattlesnake-plantain is an uncommon orchid largely confined to the Gatineau Hills and Carp Hills - Stony

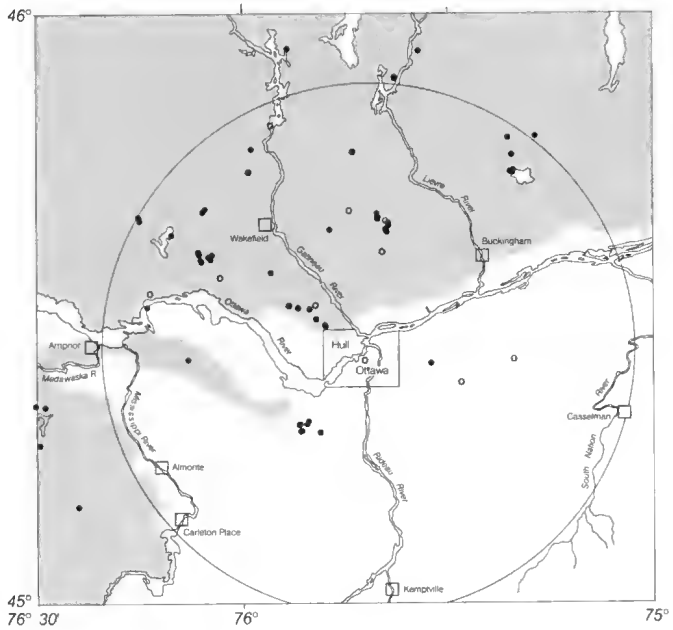


Figure 1. Tesselated Rattlesnake-plantain in the Ottawa District. Closed circles represent data from the Native Orchid Location Survey and O's represent additional herbarium records. Areas of the Precambrian Shield are shaded.

* *Part VII in a series on Ottawa District orchids.*

Swamp regions of the Ottawa District (Figure 1). In these areas of moist, heavily shaded woodlands and swamps, the plants grow in loose groups and dense patches of up to 100 or more individuals. Only a small number of the plants in a group flower in any year.

Like other perennials, rattlesnake-plantains reproduce vegetatively as well as by seed, and the dense patches are the result of vegetative reproduction. The year after a plant flowers, it dies, and several new growths are produced in its place (Figure 2). Some non-flowering plants also produce new growths. We wanted to find out how many years it took a new growth to mature to flowering size, how many new growths a parent plant produced, how the colony as a whole developed and other aspects of vegetative reproduction.

And so, in 1975, we decided to take serious notes. We inserted two knitting needles a measured distance apart across the colony for reference points, and each year measured and recorded the position and condition of each plant. We also photographed the colony from above as visual evidence to supple-

Figure 2. The year after a Tesselated Rattlesnake-plantain plant flowers, it dies, but not before producing one or two, or sometimes three, new growths. Two new growths in the colony in 1975 are shown here, having originated from the parent plant on the right. The reticulate leaf pattern, traced in pale green on deeper green, is different on every leaf.

ment our notes. We found that each leaf had its own unique pattern, which we followed in the photographs from one year to the next. We saw in this way that a plant produces two to three new leaves each year and that these leaves last about two years, remaining green through the winter. By the time the plant has reached flowering size, it has at least three to five green leaves. The year it flowers, the plant does not produce any leaves.

In 1975, the colony consisted of three flowering (Figures 3 and 4) and eight non-flowering plants covering an area 16 cm x 19 cm. It was flourishing in the deep shade of a maturing hemlock grove on a low northwest slope above a beaver meadow and stream. The soil was a thin layer of fallen leaves and humus over granite bedrock. There was little other undergrowth nearby; there were a few plants of Wild Lily-of-the-valley (*Maianthemum canadense*) and Wild Sarsaparilla (*Aralia nudicaulis*) several metres off. (In 1974 the colony also had produced three flowering plants.)

No plants flowered in 1976, but five new growths appeared. In the next three years, three, two and three plants flowered and died in turn, and new growths abounded. Only one of these flowering spikes did not survive past the flowering stage (in 1977); we found it, in full flower, freshly broken off presumably by the fallen twig that lay beside it.

On our first visit of 1980, we were expecting great things. Half a dozen plants would be flowering size, and we eagerly anticipated a good show. You can imagine our shock, then, to find only a few dried up plants.

It might be hard to imagine that beavers could have caused this sad state, but in a Rube Goldberg scenario that seems to be the case. The beavers started flooding the old meadow, saturating the soil at its margins and eventually causing some large nearby trees to fall over. As a result, the rattlesnake-plantain colony, formerly in heavy shade all day, was exposed directly to the late afternoon sun and heat. These plants are not normally found in sunlight. Moreover, the thin soil dried out more readily in the hot dry spells of the last few years. The plants we were studying were now under stress.

A month later, heavy summer rains had rejuvenated several of the plants, but only five had survived.

Surprisingly, the colony persisted. One plant flowered in each of 1982, 1983 and 1985; two flowered in 1986, but none flowered in 1984 or in the last three years. As far as we could tell, all of the flowering spikes were healthy, except in 1985 when the whole plant including flowers turned brown in the middle of that hot, dry summer. Other characters that we have measured reflect the changed conditions:

Figure 3. The flowers of the left plant in Figure 4. The white flowers are arranged on a one-sided raceme.

Figure 4. The Tesselated Rattlesnake-plantain colony in 1975 with the three flowering spikes. The flowering period is mid-July to mid-August.

All photographs are by the authors.

Characters measured	Averages 1974-1979	1981-1989
Height of flowering spike at anthesis	20 cm	12 cm
Number of flowers per spike	22	13
Leaf length of flowering plant	3.4 cm_2	2.2 cm_2
Area of colony	310 cm^2	34 cm^2
Total number of plants seen	23	13

In addition, before 1979 the new growths first appeared at a distance of about 2.3 cm from the plant and travelled on a random course a further 1 cm before flowering, whereas in the 1980s the distances were reduced to 1.3 cm and 0.5 - 1 cm respectively. Before 1980, the first three characters listed were essentially the same as those typical of Ottawa District herbarium specimens. After 1980 the plants in most ways were only two-thirds of their previous size.

Some values did not change very much over the period since 1975. The average number of leaves on a flowering plant remained fairly steady, and the number of new growths produced by a parent plant was between one and three throughout those years.

Significantly, though, the generation time, the time between the flowering of a plant and the flowering of its offspring, decreased from a minimum of four years before 1980 to three years after 1980.

From a computer model of the growth of the colony, using its size, the average distance between generations and the generation time, we find its age to be roughly 30 years in 1975 or nearly 45 now, an impressive result for such a small colony.

Now, in the summer of 1989 after several hot and dry summers, there are four plants left, having dropped from a high of seven in 1987, and we hesitate to predict what future this colony has. No vegetation has sprung up on the slope to shield the plants from the direct sunlight, and in 1985 and 1986 it experienced near misses from more falling trees.

Perhaps we could blame the beaver for altering the habitat. But really, human beings are responsible for the overabundance of beavers because they are the ones who have exterminated the beavers' natural control agent, the Timber Wolf. In the end, however, we must realize that everywhere in nature there is change. A particular colony will last for a while, but eventually it will succumb to some unpredictable accident, deer browsing, rodent burrowing, insect attack, disease or environmental change. In the meantime, seeds produced during the lifetime of the colony may have initiated new colonies elsewhere in suitable habitat. That's why, when we set aside land to protect particular plants, we must set aside a large potential habitat, not just the area where the plants appear now. ¤

My Favourite Butterfly Spot

Peter Hall

Just when you think you've got to know an area pretty well, it can surprise you. I had spent 10 years in the Ottawa District travelling the back roads and thought I knew the best butterfly spots. Having gathered information from some of the more experienced butterfly hands and with topo map always at the ready, it didn't seem possible that I had missed any promising locales.

Then, just by chance in July 1987, I was passing along the Old Almonte Road. Where Huntley Concession 8 ends just east of Manion Corners there is the beginning of a dirt track heading south. Because I had a few minutes to spare, I thought why not a quick exploration. Two years and 61 butterfly species sighted later, this relatively short road running into the northeast edge of the Long Swamp area has become a regular haunt. (Only 95 species of butterflies have been recorded in the whole of the Ottawa District.)

It's funny how you can quickly adopt a proprietary air towards what many might call a pretty, but otherwise unexciting country road. What catches your attention is that the habitats change very rapidly as you travel its length. And as you pass into each mini-habitat, new butterflies appear. The other essential ingredient present is a bountiful supply of wildflowers as nectar sources. This combination often leads to the appearance of uncommon to rare butterflies and, in particular, very localized species.

The first stretch of the dirt road quickly passes through a wet cedar swamp where one can find in mid-summer colonies of the extremely local Appalachian Eyed Brown and Least Skipper. The brown is particularly interesting here because it is one of the few locations where it actually comes into the open and can be readily seen. The Arctic and Roadside Skippers can also be found along the road edge, while large numbers of the three Great Fritillaries - the Atlantic, Great Spangled and Aphrodite - congregate on the many Joe-Pye-Weed flowers in the wet areas.

The track then crosses a wooded area dominated by maples with some large pines. Here the tiny Pine Elfin and Silvery Blue are common in the spring, while brilliant yellow Tiger Swallowtails course up and down the road.

An open, dry area predominated by junipers introduces another butterfly habitat that is most interesting later in the summer when the Wild Thyme comes into flower. Those migrant species, the Red Admiral, the Painted Lady and the American

Painted Lady, gather in numbers on the thyme and the asters that are also abundant. The Alfalfa Butterfly that is rare in the District has also been seen here once or twice. In mid-summer you can find the rare Crossline Skipper, and the Coral Hairstreak (that's the one without the fine tails on the hind wings) regularly visits the blooms of the milkweed.

Another mixed wooded area with a large open space on the opposite side of the road is the regular home of the White Admiral, several species of commas (including the uncommon Green Comma and one sighting of the rare Satyr Angle Wing) as well as a very numerous colony of the Columbine Dusky Wing. The red-and-yellow-flowered Columbine, foodplant for the larvae, is plentiful along the road. The rare and extremely local Hickory Hairstreak was also encountered once, in July of this year on a Club outing.

A short dip in the road into a wet marshland is inhabited by several unusual butterflies. The unique Harvester, whose caterpillar is the only one in North America that feeds on animals rather than plants, can be seen at this spot. The females are looking for colonies of Woolly Aphids amongst which she will lay her eggs to ensure a steady food supply for the larvae. The more northerly Leonardus Skipper can also be encountered flying along the marsh edge.

Figure 1. The very local Tawny Crescent is found in only a dozen colonies in the District.

The track then cuts upwards through a small, rocky, dry area with a plentiful supply of Poison Ivy. Here, the uncommon and very local Chryxus Arctic has taken up residence and the handsome black and yellow Black Swallowtail appears regularly.

Following the track through another large, wooded section before it peters out into the northeast edge of the Long Swamp is a very rewarding experience for butterfly enthusiasts. In late spring, two butterfly species are on the wing that are difficult to find anywhere else in the District. The tiny Hoary Elfin can be found flying around patches of the larval food-plant, Bearberry, while the uncommon Tawny Crescent (Figure 1) has a large, strong colony. This butterfly is often overlooked because of its superficial resemblance to the abundant orange-coloured Pearl Crescent which can be found all along the road.

Late in the summer of 1988, a new and disturbing presence sprouted along my now cherished country track - For Sale signs. It seems that no sooner do you find a great natural location these days than development moves in. Aside from the signs, a bulldozer has been seen several times this summer knocking down a few trees and clearing some side tracks. For what purpose is not evident, but I feel my sunshine rambles may soon be numbered. ¤

A . . . . . of Squirrels

J.W. (Jack) Holliday

Grammar, as taught at Glashan School in the 1930s, was a serious subject. As a matter of fact, Glashan was a serious school.

And then one day, some absolute fun was injected into grammar. We started to study collective nouns. You will remember, I'm sure,

a pride of lions,
a gaggle of geese,
a school of fish,
a flock of birds,
a plague of locusts.

The teacher actually smiled as she presented each one. And then there were the fun ones we thought up ourselves (which the teacher wouldn't accept) such as,

a mouthful of marbles,
a spelling of bees,
a giggle of girls.

Well, now we need one for the surplus of squirrels we have in Ottawa (a surplus of squirrels?).

I stopped spraying my apple tree in May when it became obvious that the squirrels would have the fruit all down long before they were ripe. They've dug up and partially consumed dozens of tulip bulbs.

Thought I'd try some freesias, but the 10 little bulbs I planted were dug up the very next day. Ditto one of six gladiolus. A few bites, then abandoned.

Tuberous begonias and lily flowers sampled then dropped.

When the oaks in my neighbourhood produced a crop of acorns, the squirrels harvested them in August, while they were still green, and most of those not eaten will probably rot in the ground where they are buried.

The little apples on the Almey crabs, which the squirrels usually eat when hard times occur in January, were today (November 2nd) being hungrily eaten by a squirrel.

Two weeks ago a middle-aged woman was seen to park her car near the Parkway, take a live-trap from the trunk, and drop a squirrel over the fence. He'll have to fight the local squirrels for a place to live.

There seem to be about 10 squirrels per block in my neighbourhood. I suppose the odd one is caught by Great Horned Owls and perhaps by the larger of the hawks, but they seem relatively free from predators. Dogs can't seem to catch them, and cats seem reluctant to actually catch one, but they do chase them, half-heartedly. The only obvious control is the automobile, which runs down hundreds.

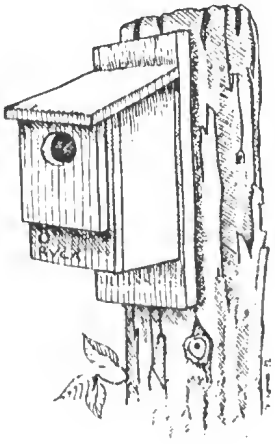
I suppose the multitude of bird feeders is the reason for the remarkable increase in the squirrel population in the last 10 years or so. Whatever, we have more than enough.

What we need is a collective noun to describe properly this near-plague (no, that is reserved for locusts).

Sister Reta likes "a whirl of squirrels".

What do you propose? ¤

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY



PERTH WILDLIFE RESERVE

Charles Billington
Community Relations Coordinator
Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

It's mid-October. Cold yellow light streams through the morning mist rising off the ponds and fields. The start of another fine fall day in deep Eastern Ontario. But not quite perfect: the geese are restless. The morning feed is not the usual relaxed waddle over the green slopes. Something is up.

Suddenly, the geese move and at the same instant set up a deafening clatter. The 50 or so Canada Geese turn into a bristling, noisy gang. And then, the reason for this odd behaviour strolls out of the surrounding brush along the fence row - a Red Fox.

He circles the cluster of big birds looking to pick up an easy meal. The larger honkers on the outside are loud, alert and poised for attack, shielding the younger geese behind. The fox knows he is no match for such a strategic defence initiative. There are no stragglers and the fox retreats. Maybe another time.

Those big Canada Geese have not always been found in this part of the Ontario countryside. In fact, it's only a little over 20 years ago that the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority sat down on a hot July night in 1967 to start the serious work of encouraging geese to the area.

The construction of a compound near the Perth sewage lagoons for nine flightless geese may seem an inauspicious start. But the rise from those humble beginnings to the highly successful 168-hectare Perth Wildlife Reserve of today is a tale of patience, hard work, luck and dedication to wildlife ideals. It's an honest-to-goodness rags-to-riches wildlife management story.

The old abandoned chunk of farmland had gone to seed. The pioneers had tried to eke out a living on the thin soil. But they are long gone. It was a desert of scrub brush, impenetrable alder thickets and chin-high goldenrod on all sides.

But the Conservation Authority, after long years of trial and error, has turned it into a wildlife paradise rich in habitat and species diversity. There are now open ponds, pastures for geese to graze in, new wetlands, animal travel corridors, wildlife plantings, nesting islands and boxes, maturing forests, some rough fields, some reforestation, and, best of all, lots of geese, ducks and other waterfowl and increasing numbers of upland species.

During the fall and spring migrations, the dirt road leading to the Reserve is sometimes lined with parked cars for half a kilometre. Not only is the wildlife management program a success in itself; people come in to see the animals and the habitat improvements and they enjoy it.

That brings a broad smile to the face of David Crowley, the Conservation Authority's Chairman and long-time Perth resident. "It's been a long haul so far and there's still lots of work to be done, but we're quite pleased with the results."

In fact, it's that combination of practical wildlife management and visitors that is at the heart of the Authority's plan. The Perth Wildlife Reserve has a sub-title: Wildlife Management Demonstration Area. In other words, they want hunters, farmers, landowners, school kids and cottage owners to come and see what they can do to encourage wildlife back home on their own properties.

The goose program, going on since 1969, involves systematic habitat improvements. The basic idea of modern wildlife management is to improve the habitat to provide food, water, shelter and nest sites. Once the animals see the brand new opportunities in the area, they will stay and reproduce and generally take care of themselves.

The Conservation Authority's resident flock of 50-60 birds seems to agree with the experts. Each spring up to 30 regulars return, mate, set up nest territories, raise goslings and generally double the size of the flock by the time the fall migration rolls around. The geese raised on the Reserve spend the winter in the Maryland - Delaware area of Chesapeake Bay. Hunting, accidents and winter weather reduce the number that do make it back to the Authority property to around 30 again.

But how does the Conservation Authority go about encouraging wildlife when the animals are free to fly and run and swim anywhere they like? The key lies in those last three words - "anywhere they like". The purpose of the wildlife management

effort is to make an area more suitable, more "likeable" so that the animals will be encouraged to stay and reproduce. Although there are many different ways to make wildlife stick around, habitat improvement is the only long-term natural method to increase animal numbers.

The best single approach to encouraging wildlife in an area is to create habitat diversity: plan and undertake a program to provide a variety of plant communities, of plant species, of topography and of water sources.

You can adjust the habitat to favour certain species. What is it about the Perth Wildlife Reserve, for example, that the geese like?

Well, according to Cliff Craig, Rideau Valley's Land Management Coordinator, it's a combination of things. "Safe, predator-free nesting stations, high quality nearby grazing areas, and a variety of open water sites to raise their families all contribute to the return of Perth-born birds to the area".

Five artificial ponds with several nesting islands were constructed in the early 1970s. Millet and sunflower have been planted along hedgerows, and large pastures have been established for the geese on all sides of the big pond.

Although the main focus of the wildlife management program remains the geese, it doesn't stop there. About 40 Wood Duck nesting boxes have been installed and are annually checked, repaired and replaced on Jebb's Creek running through the Reserve. The Conservation Authority and the Ministry of Natural Resources have also done cooperative local creel census work, duck and goose banding.

Banding of Eastern Bluebirds in cooperation with the Canadian Wildlife Service is a recent Reserve project. The Authority's 65-box bluebird trail starts on the Reserve. Since 1982, over 1,000 brand new bluebirds have come out of those nestboxes.

But the work is not restricted to feathered animals. Habitat changes, such as the cutting of "travelways" and the "release pruning" of old orchard trees and native fruit trees, have increased the local deer population. Says Carson Thompson, the Authority's live-in Area Supervisor, "there's hardly a day goes by when we don't see deer somewhere on the Reserve".

As the variety of the habitat goes up, so too do the populations of the smaller but very welcome animals. Ones like Snowshoe Hares, cottontails, woodcock, chipmunks, songbirds, insects and small mammals. These animals can find their life requirements in the seams and along the edges of the hodgepodge trails, clearings, wet spots, ponds, fields and managed woodlot.

Jebb's Creek in the Perth Wildlife Reserve
Photographs courtesy of the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority

In fact, creating habitat diversity is the basic tool in the Conservation Authority's arsenal of wildlife management techniques. By providing a nice assortment of different kinds of ecosystems side by side, there will be something for everyone. Variety is the spice of life for wildlife too.

Altering the ages and types of vegetation patches increases the "edge effect". Where two ecosystems join, for example an old field and a woodlot, there is a gradual intermingling of the two. Young saplings and shrubs from the forest grow amid the wildflowers and grasses from the field. In the edge area, such things like temperature, amount of sunlight and wind, and soil characteristics will also be intermediate between those of the two adjoining habitats.

Because of their unique character, edges are particularly attractive to a wide range of animals and should be a central feature of any wildlife encouragement plan.

Diversity in the vegetation and therefore in the resident animal population can be increased by mowing a section of the field, by brush-cutting another section to thin out the underbrush, by planting berry and fruiting shrubs, and by planting a few rows of fast-growing hybrid poplars to raise the profile and create height variations in the field quickly.

Wildlife management is largely a question of vegetation management. By creating a potpourri of vegetation, most animals will be able to find a very "likeable" place to set up residence. The more variety there is in the area, the more opportunities there will be for animal food and shelter.

A major Conservation Authority project over the next few decades is the purchase of all available parcels in the well-known 175-hectare Tay Marsh, adjacent to the Perth Wildlife Reserve. The properties go together like apple pie and ice cream. The Authority would like to assemble the land-based Perth Wildlife Reserve and the water-based Tay Marsh into a wildlife management demonstration showcase of provincial significance. The Marsh, formerly a hotspot for ducks, geese, muskrats, frogs and fish, has slowly become less of a wildlife paradise over the past 40 years.

Natural succession was at work in the Marsh too. It's become overgrown with cattail mats and dense growths of other aquatic vegetation. These plants choke out the open water and limit the number and variety of animals. To maintain more open water and rejuvenate a marsh for wildlife, the thick vegetation must be removed. One of the best and least expensive ways to remove existing wetland vegetation is to draw down the water, in effect empty the pond for a season. The following spring, the marsh is allowed to refill itself, and a fresh new cycle of plant growth will start.

The first snow - Canada Geese ready to migrate

A drawdown is not possible, however, on the Tay Marsh. It is part of the Tay River and Canal system, a federal navigable river connecting Perth to the Rideau waterway.

Some experimental work in 1984 with the Ducks Unlimited "cookie cutter" was done. That machine is a floating lawnmower capable of chopping wide swaths through aquatic vegetation. More work is needed to loosen up and remove much of the suffocating cattail mat.

In the winter of 1986-87, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources attempted two experimental "burns" - the first in Ontario - on the Tay Marsh. The fire was to eliminate the cattails right down to the water line. But things didn't go exactly as planned. In the first attempt the weather was perfect but the humidity of the vegetation was too high. It simply didn't burn. A smaller scale second try in January did result in some cattail removal and a lot of valuable experience using this wetland management technique.

The Rideau Valley Conservation Authority's goal is to revitalize the wetland and bring back the productivity for which the marsh was famous to generations of hunters and fishermen as late as the 1950s.

Another new dimension is in the cards for the Reserve. Towering over the restored pioneer house, three barns and a couple of sheds is the 12-metre "Gould, Sharply and Muiro self-oiling model" windmill. This old-fashioned, gently spinning mill has rejoined the work force. It's now an integral part of the conservation farm program on the Reserve pumping water from a 40-metre well into the large goose pond to stabilize water levels during dry spells.

Recently, a further glimpse into the pioneer past was made by the donation of a large collection of pioneer tools. Dr. Jack Silversides spent a lifetime amassing a fascinating collection of early Lanark County pioneer shovels, picks, planes, chisels and hardware.

That historical collection was opened to the public in the fall of 1987, and the Perth Wildlife Reserve is now even more of a mecca for low-technology, conservation-minded citizens.

That hungry fox back at the Perth Wildlife Reserve, by the way, is now scouting around for easier pickings elsewhere than on the goose pasture. And the Canada Geese are just getting back to some serious grazing before that long flight down to Delaware. ¤

Addenda

Omissions were made in two articles in the first issue of this Volume. They are corrected as follows:

Shoreweed (*Littorella americana*)
New to the Ottawa District and Ottawa-Carleton

page 20: a line was omitted from the second paragraph. The complete sentences should have read:
Porsild (1941) suggests that the presence of certain plant species on the Sand Hills at Constance Bay indicates that the sand is "... decidedly calcareous...". The Constance Bay *Littorella*, however, was growing with a number of plants that are typical of many northern lakes with non-calcareous substrates.

The Eighth Annual Seedathon Bird Count

page 30: The count took place on September 11, 1988. ¤

The Plight of a Great Horned Owl

Ralph Baigent
R.R. 3
Ingersoll, Ontario

One bright sunny cold and frosty morning in 1987, Greta, Dorsie and I took our usual morning stroll down to the sugar bush. I followed the trail into the woods from the west. In front of me about six metres a large, horned, russet owl a half metre in length flew across my path, landing about 15 metres into the bush. It was towing a heavy steel trap clamped on its right leg and could only get off the ground a bit.

I knew I would have to take the trap off. I told the dogs to stay back and picked my way quietly, talking gently to the owl, which by this time had backed under an old dilapitated tractor. I inched towards him. He kept his feet steady but seemed to move his head back away from the rest of him as I drew near. I was wearing big heavy leather mitts, and speaking to him softly all the time I bent down to try and release the trap. The first time I tried, I couldn't manage it, but waiting a bit I tried again. My hands were stiff and cold, but finally I managed to unclamp the trap and drop it off his foot.

There didn't seem to be any rips or blood on his leg. I moved back a bit and waited. Fifteen minutes passed. The owl backed further under the tractor. I finished my walk checking out the sugar shanty. I suppose it took me another 15 minutes and I then returned to see how he was doing. On my return, he flew up into a large maple nearby and sat. I then returned to the house for breakfast and got my wife to take her back to see the owl. To our surprise, there he sat.

We don't see owls this large very often in our area. I noticed the trap had a broken chain, so I think probably he got caught down by the river in someone's muskrat trap and was powerful enough to get free. He had made it to our bush probably carrying that trap a half kilometre or more and over two or three days. When my wife and I returned to the woods an hour and a half later, he was still sitting in the maple tree, but as we stood there marvelling at this great bird, he made to leave, flying slowly away. His wing span would be a metre or more, I reckon.

I didn't think about the danger when I took the trap off, but on recollection I'm glad he didn't put up a fight. He just seemed wise enough to know I was going to help and seemed only to say thank you. I've looked for him to come back, but he never returned. I still have the trap among my souvenirs. ¤

Spring Bird Sightings

V. Bernard Ladouceur

March - May Period

OVERVIEW

Winter lingered well into March as did some winter lingerers including a Varied Thrush (March 5th), a Great Gray Owl and a Northern Hawk-Owl (March 11th). Considering the cold, the appearance of a Tree Swallow on March 24th was noteworthy. I doubt that it will have the opportunity to make that mistake again.

"March 24th! It's almost time to go to Carlsbad Springs, Bourget and Riceville! I wonder, will the geese show up on March 26th, 27th or 28th this year?" It's truly astonishing how little the date varies from year to year. This year it was March 27th - an average year, I guess.

Late March and early April is about the time to start watching for hawk movement and checking Clyde Avenue Woods for owls. Enjoy the woods while they last. The fields adjacent to the woods (land no longer considered useful to Agriculture Canada) are slated to be used for apartment buildings. A number of Northern Saw-whet and Long-eared Owls, as well as a Great Horned Owl, were located there as is the case every year.

Spring migration was May 20th this year - sorry if you missed it. Some birder friends of mine had a late start that morning. They didn't arrive at Britannia Woods until 10 a.m. and even at that late hour it sounded like a dawn chorus. What a day to miss! Two Orchard Orioles (an adult and an immature male) were seen at Britannia that morning, as were a Yellow-billed Cuckoo and a good number of warblers.

Significant shorebird movement wasn't noted until the last week of May.

Actually, early June was the best part of spring - see next issue's report.

HIGHLIGHTS

GREBES: May 6th was the best day with 22 Horned and 36 Red-necked Grebes being reported from Shirleys Bay.

HERONS: Great Egrets were observed on April 7th from Stanley's Corners and from May 7th to 10th at Cedar Hill Golf Course.

WATERFOWL: A Tundra Swan was present on May 23rd and 24th on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River west of the Champlain Bridge. Two Greater White-fronted Geese were at Embrun on April 8th and there was one present again on April 16th. The birds had orange bills and so we are unsure of the race as Greenland birds have (apparently) yellow bills and western birds have pink bills.

As stated earlier, Carlsbad Springs, Bourget and Riceville became active on March 27th (during the afternoon, to be more precise). Fifty to sixty thousand Canada Geese could be seen between Bourget and Riceville from March 27th to April 11th. Six Snow Geese appeared on March 27th. The largest total of Snow Geese recorded was 260 at Riceville on April 9th. Two thousand Northern Pintails were noted on March 27th. Most days at these locations were disappointing. We've had pintail numbers as high as 10,000 in the past and most days there were but a few Snow (and Blue) Geese to be seen.

The last report of Barrow's Goldeneye was on April 17th (two at Shirleys Bay). This species sometimes stays until very early May.

May 14th brought six Surf Scoters (an all-time spring high count) and the first Brant (early). Two hundred Brant were seen on May 22nd and 150 on the 28th.

Ruddy Duck appeared at Casselman on April 30th and up to four could be seen there (or at Embrun or at some other sewage lagoon as all the ducks move around) through May 31st.

RAPTORS: There were four reports of Bald Eagle: March 25th, April 1st, April 17th and May 14th. Two Peregrine Falcons were found to be frequenting the Coats Building. A *tundrius* (arctic, that is, wild) race bird was observed into April. An *anatum* (unbanded, that is, we think it's wild) race bird appeared about this time and was observed on and off throughout the rest of the period.

CRANES AND RAILS: The pair of Sandhill Cranes near the Mer Bleue was first observed on April 29th and once again breeding is suspected, although there is no evidence of it as I write on July 20th.

Yellow Rail reports from the Richmond Fen include two on May 18th, one on May 24th and one on May 28th. Cattails are encroaching on the Yellow Rail habitat and one wonders how much longer they will remain in this location. They are already very difficult to find and it is certainly open to question whether or not they are breeding there at all anymore.

SHOREBIRDS: Wilson's Phalarope didn't appear until May 4th and up to 40 could be seen between Russell, Embrun and Casselman sewage lagoons after that date.

Highlights included 100(!) Short-billed Dowitchers at various locations on May 24th, 20 White-rumped Sandpipers on May 27th, a Reeve (a female Ruff) at Casselman on May 28th and a Red-necked Phalarope on Armstrong Road on the same day. The Reeve sighting was the 11th Ruff reported for Ottawa.

GULLS: Iceland, Glaucous and Lesser Black-backed Gulls all appeared on April 12th. Two Iceland Gulls were observed as late as May 4th and a Glaucous Gull lingered until May 18th. *Four* Lesser Black-backed Gulls were observed, including an adult on April 12th, two sub-adults on May 4th and one first winter bird on May 10th. This is the most ever recorded in spring in Ottawa and as Ottawa birders become more familiar with the younger plumages, this number will undoubtedly be exceeded. Of course, the species is becoming more common too. The first record was in 1971 and the third not until 1978. Many have been observed since then, particularly in the last few years and especially in the autumn.

LAND BIRDS: It was already noted that there was a Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Britannia Woods on May 20th. Another was seen at Shirleys Bay on May 28th.

At least three pairs of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were to be found on or near the Carp Ridge. Breeding has been confirmed for at least one of these pairs.

At least one Black-backed Woodpecker was present at the burnt site north of Quyon throughout the period. The only dependable location for Red-headed Woodpecker appears to be Breckenridge.

A singing Carolina Wren was reported from Russell in early May. Other sources indicate that this bird was present all last

winter.

Northern Mockingbird was found at five locations. No evidence of breeding was reported, although a breeding pair has since been discovered on the Quebec side.

Loggerhead Shrikes were extremely scarce. Migrant birds were reported south of the airport in April and southwest of Kanata. There was a breeding pair south of the Marlborough Forest and another individual was seen south of the burnt site north of Quyon on May 28th.

Vireo and warbler migration produced little of interest, although May 20th had good numbers.

Clay-coloured Sparrows were found at a number of new locations. This species, along with the Grasshopper Sparrow, continues to increase.

Forty-two Lapland Longspurs were at Embrun on April 30th. Many of these individuals were in bright spring plumage. A single bird was at the same location on May 1st.

As stated earlier, two Orchard Orioles were at Britannia on May 20th. There are about six previous reports for this species in the District.

Finally, House Finches continue to increase and have become more widespread, having established themselves in many rural towns and villages.

CONCLUSION

It should be noted, again, that there are far fewer birds in the field than a few years ago. Birding continues to be enjoyable for me, but the spring of 1989 is just another indicator that bird numbers - particularly land bird numbers - are decreasing. 1989 may be just a foretaste of the 1990s.

Acknowledgements

This report was based largely on the Bird Status Line log maintained by Larry Neilly, with additional observations by Bruce Di Labio and other birders. ¤

Eighth Annual Christmas Bird Count Roundup 1988-1989 Period

Bruce M. Di Labio

The 1988-89 count period will be remembered as one of the quieter ones in recent years. Participation was low, species numbers were down, as were individual counts. I am confident that during this coming count season enthusiasm and participation will surpass that of last year.

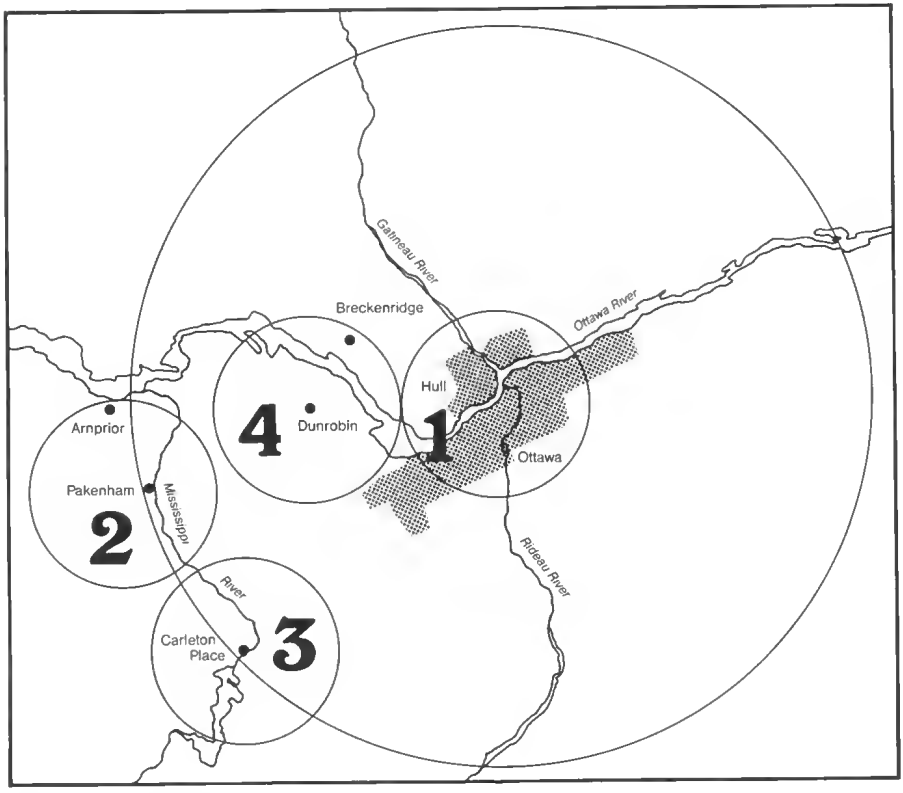
The Ottawa - Hull Count was held on December 18, 1988. Weather conditions were reasonable with the morning being partly cloudy with light snow and the afternoon partly clearing. A total of 64 species was observed by 89 field observers and 57 feeder watchers. Again, this total is low if one compares it to counts in the past. Highlights were few, but an immature Black-legged Kittiwake was found along the Ottawa River behind the Parliament Buildings, only the second count record. Interestingly, the first count record was nearby at the mouth of the Gatineau River. One new species was found - a Golden Eagle on the Quebec side of the count circle. Mourning Doves, Northern Cardinals and House Finches continued their record-setting pace. The count was compiled by Allan Cameron.

The Pakenham - Arnprior Count was held on December 26th, with 36 field observers. A total of 46 species was recorded. Two new species were found, a Winter Wren and a Merlin. Other birds of interest were record numbers of Common Raven (42), Black-capped Chickadee (1,121), House Finch (64) and Pine Siskin (1,059). The count was compiled by Michael Runtz.

The Carleton Place species count was somewhat lower than usual as there were only 37 species recorded, a slight drop from last year's total of 46. Held on December 27th, 25 field observers found record high numbers of Common Merganser, Mourning Dove, White-crowned Sparrow and House Finch. The compiler was Mike Jaques.

Participation in the Dunrobin - Breckenridge Count was low this season, probably because the count was held on January 1st, New Year's Day. As with the other counts, numerous species were low in numbers or absent; however, one new species was found, a Red-bellied Woodpecker. Other highlights included two Northern Saw-whet Owls, two Lesser Scaups, 39 Mourning Doves and 14 Northern Cardinals. The count was compiled by the author.

Acknowledgements: I would like to thank the compilers and section leaders for their continued efforts in compiling the results and getting them to us, and the members of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, Le Club des ornithologues de l'Outaouais and the Macnamara Field Naturalists' Club for their support.



Map showing the locations of the four local Christmas Bird Counts in relation to the Ottawa District. (The large circle is the boundary of the 50 km radius area of the District.)

	COUNT NAME	*DATE*	*COMPILER*	*TOTAL SPECIES*
1.	*Ottawa-Hull*	*Dec. 18*	*Allan Cameron*	*64*
2.	*Pakenham-Arnprior*	*Dec. 26*	*Michael Runtz*	*46*
3.	*Carleton Place*	*Dec. 27*	*Mike Jaques*	*37*
4.	*Dunrobin-Breckenridge*	*Jan. 1*	*Bruce Di Labio*	*46*

1988-1989 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT ROUNDUP

Species	Ottawa-Hull	Pakenham-Arnprior	Carleton Place	Dunrobin-Breckenridge
Great Blue Heron	1	-	-	-
Canada Goose	3	-	-	284*
Wood Duck	1	-	-	-
American Black Duck	561	-	-	109
Mallard	104	-	2	24
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	2*
Oldsquaw	1	-	-	-
Common Goldeneye	450	-	9	2
Barrow's Goldeneye	5	-	-	-
Hooded Merganser	-	-	-	1***
Common Merganser	56	2	34*	-
Red-breasted Merganser	1	-	1	-
Bald Eagle	-	1	-	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	2	-	1
Cooper's Hawk	2	1	-	-
Northern Goshawk	2	3	1	2
Red-tailed Hawk	1	4	1	-
Rough-legged Hawk	-	1	-	1
Golden Eagle	1**	-	-	-
American Kestrel	17	4	-	4
Merlin	-	1**	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	1	-	-	-
Gray Partridge	7	-	-	23
Ruffed Grouse	46	25	7	54
Herring Gull	81	-	-	-
Iceland Gull	4	-	-	-
Glaucous Gull	18	-	-	-
Great Black-backed Gull	24	-	-	-
Black-legged Kittiwake	1***	-	-	-
Rock Dove	5,153	562	434	418
Mourning Dove	157*	51	88*	39*
Great Horned Owl	8	2	-	3D
Snowy Owl	2	-	-	-
Barred Owl	3	1	-	1
Northern Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	2***
Belted Kingfisher	-	-	1	-
Red-bellied Woodpecker	-	-	-	1**
Downy Woodpecker	119	50	66	82
Hairy Woodpecker	107	51	42	85
Pileated Woodpecker	26*	12	4	16
Horned Lark	13	57	-	25
Blue Jay	335	269	241	236
American Crow	589	156	74	117
Common Raven	20	42*	-	20
Black-capped Chickadee	2,434	1,121*	601	1,657
Red-breasted Nuthatch	18	36	8	30
White-breasted Nuthatch	139	86	63	101
Brown Creeper	20	15	2	30
Winter Wren	-	1**	-	-
Golden-crowned Kinglet	28	12	-	17

* *record high*
** *new species for the count (therefore also record high for that species)*
*** *ties record high.*

1988-1989 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT ROUNDUP (continued)

Species	Ottawa-Hull	Pakenham-Arnprior	Carleton Place	Dunrobin-Breckenridge
Hermit Thrush	1	-	-	-
American Robin	6	-	-	-
Northern Mockingbird	2	-	1	-
Cedar Waxwing	66	23	-	-
Northern Shrike	4	2	1	3
European Starling	2,898	471	308	123
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	-	-	-
Northern Cardinal	83*	3	11	14*
American Tree Sparrow	133	103	85	159
Song Sparrow	11	-	2	2
White-throated Sparrow	4	1	1	-
White-crowned Sparrow	-	-	3*	-
Dark-eyed Junco	66	7	19	12
Snow Bunting	1,793	1,765	627	1,062
Red-winged Blackbird	4	1	-	2*
Common Grackle	1	1	-	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	1	-	-
Pine Grosbeak	-	-	6	-
Purple Finch	48	102	285	136
House Finch	119*	64*	9*	-
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	7*
White-winged Crossbill	19	13	-	118*
Common Redpoll	24	27	59	21
Pine Siskin	6	1,059*	72	214
American Goldfinch	812	435	577	858
Evening Grosbeak	255	511	302	398
House Sparrow	2,777	540	252	419

* *record high*

	Ottawa-Hull	Pakenham-Arnprior	Carleton Place	Dunrobin-Breckenridge
Total Individuals	19,683	7,697	4,299	6,962
Total Species	64	46	37	46

SUMMARY: TOTALS FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS

	1985-1986	1986-1987	1987-1988	1988-1989
Total Individuals	59,251	46,300	45,482	38,685
Total Species	75	84	87	77

Species List for Ottawa-Hull Christmas Bird Counts 1919-1988

Bruce M. Di Labio

The following list is a summary of Ottawa-Hull Christmas Bird Counts from 1919 to 1988. The list contains a total of 139 species recorded in the 7 1/2 mile radius of the Peace Tower.

The list details the following information: species names in both official languages; First Record - the year a species was first recorded; Years Recorded - the number of counts on which the species has been found; Record High - the highest number of individuals of a species found on any one count; and Record Year - the year in which the Record High was recorded. When the Record High was tied for more than three years, the number of years is given rather than the years themselves. Less specific records (for example, scaup sp., accipiter sp., hawk sp., gull sp.) are not included in this treatment.

One species, Swainson's Thrush, has been deleted due to insufficient information.

Species / Espèce		First Record	Years Recorded	Record High	Record Year
Red-throated Loon	Huart à gorge rousse	1970	1	1	1970
Common Loon	Huart à collier	1962	3	1	62,77,84
Pied-billed Grebe	Grèbe à bec bigarré	1968	4	1	4 yrs.
Horned Grebe	Grèbe cornu	1973	1	2	1973
Red-necked Grebe	Grèbe jougris	1949	6	4	1987
Great Blue Heron	Grand Héron	1952	4	2	1965
Canada Goose	Bernache du Canada	1957	14	502	1984

Wood Duck	Canard branchu	1971	5	3	1979
Green-winged Teal	Sarcelle à ailes vertes	1979	1	1	1979
American Black Duck	Canard noir	1941	42	786	1984
Mallard	Canard colvert	1931	32	292	1984
Northern Pintail	Canard pilet	1975	2	2	1975
Canvasback	Morillon à dos blanc	1968	2	1	68,73
Ring-necked Duck	Morillon à collier	1952	12	9	1966
Greater Scaup	Grand Morillon	1952	7	4	1979
Lesser Scaup	Petit Morillon	1969	11	4	1984
King Eider	Eider remarquable	1983	1	1	1983
Harlequin Duck	Canard harlequin	1971	2	2	1987
Oldsquaw	Canard kakawi	1956	9	6	69,84
Surf Scoter	Macreuse à front blanc	1984	1	1	1984
White-winged Scoter	Macreuse à ailes blanches	1970	4	1	4 yrs.
Common Goldeneye	Garrot a oeil d'or	1924	65	501	1984
Barrow's Goldeneye	Garrot de Barrow	1960	19	5	87,88
Bufflehead	Petit Garrot	1953	11	4	71,72
Hooded Merganser	Bec-scie couronné	1937	28	5	1984
Common Merganser	Grand Bec-scie	1926	59	79	1952
Red-breasted Merganser	Bec-scie à poitrine rousse	1948	24	13	1949
Bald Eagle	Pygargue à tête blanche	1972	2	1	72,73
Northern Harrier	Busard Saint-Martin	1984	1	1	1984
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Epervier brun	1921	22	8	1985
Cooper's Hawk	Epervier de Cooper	1960	17	5	1970
Northern Goshawk	Autour des palombes	1924	31	8	73,76
Red-shouldered Hawk	Buse à épaulettes	1948	2	1	48,55
Red-tailed Hawk	Buse à queue rousse	1960	19	9	1973
Rough-legged Hawk	Buse pattue	1956	24	28	1973
Golden Eagle	Aigle royal	1988	1	1	1988
American Kestrel	Crécerelle d'Amérique	1940	45	18	1974
Merlin	Faucon émerillon	1931	10	2	39,59
Peregrine Falcon	Faucon pèlerin	1972	4	1	4 yrs.
Gyrfalcon	Faucon gerfaut	1972	2	3	1980

Species / Espèce		Première mention	Nombre d'années d'observation	Individus nombre record	Année record
Gray Partridge	Perdrix grise	1948	39	675	1980
Ring-necked Pheasant	Faisan à collier	1932	53	56	1944
Spruce Grouse	Tétras du Canada	1944	1	2	1944
Ruffed Grouse	Gélinotte huppée	1919	68	93	1979
American Coot	Foulque d'Amérique	1969	2	1	69,84
Common Snipe	Bécassine des marais	1970	3	1	70,78,83
Common Black-headed Gull	Mouette rieuse	1986	1	1	1986
Ring-billed Gull	Goéland a bec cerclé	1957	8	53	1984
Herring Gull	Goéland argenté	1923	37	2,596	1987
Thayer's Gull	Goéland de Thayer	1973	3	1	73,79,81
Iceland Gull	Goéland arctique	1956	19	15	86,87
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Goéland brun	1979	1	1	1979
Glaucous Gull	Goéland bourgmestre	1943	29	44	1987
Great Black-backed Gull	Goéland à manteau noir	1957	15	510	1987
Black-legged Kittiwake	Mouette tridactyle	1981	2	1	81,88
Thick-billed Murre	Marmette de Brünnich	1952	1	1	1952
Rock Dove	Pigeon biset	1932	49	7,369	1980
Mourning Dove	Tourterelle triste	1952	19	157	1988
Eastern Screech-Owl	Petit-duc maculé	1923	22	2	4 yrs.
Great Horned Owl	Grand-duc d'Amérique	1929	41	47	1971
Snowy Owl	Harfang des neiges	1954	25	10	1967

Northern Hawk-Owl	Chouette épervière	1922	5	2	1965
Barred Owl	Chouette rayée	1933	27	6	1977
Great Gray Owl	Chouette lapone	1983	1	23	1983
Long-eared Owl	Hibou moyen-duc	1973	5	1	5 yrs.
Short-eared Owl	Hibou des marais	1957	7	9	1962
Boreal Owl	Nyctale boréale	1973	2	1	73,76
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Petite Nyctale	1971	8	2	1986
Belted Kingfisher	Martin-pêcheur d'Amérique	1964	8	2	4 yrs.
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Pic à ventre roux	1979	2	2	1979
Downy Woodpecker	Pic mineur	1921	67	211	1980
Hairy Woodpecker	Pic chevelu	1921	67	224	1975
Three-toed Woodpecker	Pic tridactyle	1941	19	29	1976
Black-backed Woodpecker	Pic à dos noir	1927	27	20	1980
Northern Flicker	Pic flamboyant	1958	7	5	1984
Pileated Woodpecker	Grand Pic	1926	39	26	1988
Eastern Phoebe	Moucherolle phébi	1969	1	1	1969
Horned Lark	Alouette cornue	1948	20	167	1960
Gray Jay	Geai du Canada	1921	19	19	1972
Blue Jay	Geai bleu	1921	63	663	1984
American Crow	Corneille d'Amérique	1921	67	1,716	1984
Common Raven	Grand Corbeau	1971	17	24	1980
Black-capped Chickadee	Mésange à tête noire	1919	70	2,660	1982
Boreal Chickadee	Mésange à tête brune	1927	21	24	1972
Tufted Titmouse	Mésange bicolore	1979	1	1	1979
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Sittelle à poitrine rousse	1920	53	388	1976
White-breasted Nuthatch	Sittelle à poitrine blanche	1921	68	263	1980

Species / Espèce		First Record	Years Recorded	Record High	Record Year
Brown Creeper	Grimpereau brun	1920	59	51	1979
Carolina Wren	Troglodyte de Caroline	1971	5	2	1980
Winter Wren	Troglodyte des forêts	1950	7	2	1974
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Roitelet à couronne dorée	1927	35	47	1982
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Roitelet à couronne rubis	1949	3	4	1982
Hermit Thrush	Grive solitaire	1960	4	1	4 yrs.
American Robin	Merle d'Amérique	1921	32	71	1984
Varied Thrush	Grive à collier	1979	1	1	1979
Northern Mockingbird	Moqueur polyglotte	1964	12	4	73,79
Brown Thrasher	Moqueur roux	1968	4	1	4 yrs.
Water Pipit	Pipit spioncelle	1954	1	1	1954
Bohemian Waxwing	Jaseur boréal	1930	24	4,953	1985
Cedar Waxwing	Jaseur des cèdres	1932	26	403	1984
Northern Shrike	Pie-grièche grise	1921	56	24	1977
Loggerhead Shrike	Pie-grièche migratrice	1962	1	1	1962
European Starling	Etourneau sansonnet	1924	65	6,742	1984
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Paruline à croupion jaune	1967	10	7	1979
Black-thr. Green Warbler	Paruline verte à gorge noire	1984	1	1	1984
Pine Warbler	Paruline des pins	1982	1	1	1982
Common Yellowthroat	Paruline masquée	1979	1	1	1979

Northern Cardinal	Cardinal rouge	1945	22	83	1988
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Cardinal à poitrine rose	1968	2	1	68,82
Rufous-sided Towhee	Tohi à flancs roux	1969	5	1	5 yrs.
American Tree Sparrow	Bruant hudsonien	1920	55	477	1984
Chipping Sparrow	Bruant familier	1969	4	1	4 yrs.
Field Sparrow	Bruant des champs	1965	3	2	1971
Savannah Sparrow	Bruant des près	1966	1	1	1966
Fox Sparrow	Bruant fauve	1984	1	1	1984
Song Sparrow	Bruant chanteur	1924	42	25	1979
Swamp Sparrow	Bruant des marais	1968	10	6	1977
White-throated Sparrow	Bruant à gorge blanche	1922	24	16	1976
White-crowned Sparrow	Bruant à couronne blanche	1948	7	4	1970
Dark-eyed Junco	Junco ardoisé	1932	34	232	1984
Lapland Longspur	Bruant lapon	1937	11	30	1961
Snow Bunting	Bruant des neiges	1921	61	1,876	1975
Red-winged Blackbird	Carouge à épaulettes	1928	30	15	1972
Eastern Meadowlark	Sturnelle des prés	1931	5	2	1980
Rusty Blackbird	Quiscale rouilleux	1964	12	7	1977
Common Grackle	Quiscale bronzé	1930	34	12	72,73
Brown-headed Cowbird	Vacher à tête brune	1960	15	29	1980
Northern Oriole	Oriole du Nord	1978	1	1	1978
Pine Grosbeak	Dur-bec des pins	1919	46	1,446	1985
Purple Finch	Roselin pourpré	1920	34	519	1976
House Finch	Roselin familier	1980	6	119	1988
Red Crossbill	Bec-croisé rouge	1950	17	108	1976
White-winged Crossbill	Bec-croisé à ailes blanches	1927	25	300	1984
Common Redpoll	Sizerin flammé	1919	56	3,264	1981
Hoary Redpoll	Sizerin blanchâtre	1952	11	15	1952
Pine Siskin	Chardonneret des pins	1919	55	1,133	1986
American Goldfinch	Chardonneret jaune	1923	55	1,591	1984
Evening Grosbeak	Gros-bec errant	1923	42	2,621	1972
House Sparrow	Moineau domestique	1927	62	6,655	1968 ¤

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Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions and Lectures Committee
For further information, call the Club number (722-3050).

Times stated for excursions are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to ask the leader. Restricted trips will be open to non-members only after the indicated deadlines.

ALL OUTINGS: *Please bring a lunch on full-day trips and dress according to the weather forecast and the activity. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes are essential on all birding trips. Unless otherwise stated, transportation will be by car pool.*

EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM: *Club members should be prepared to show their membership cards to gain access to the National Museum of Natural Sciences for Club functions after regular Museum hours. There may be a charge for parking in the Museum lot.*

Tuesday 10 Oct. 8:00 p.m.	OFNC MONTHLY MEETING AN ILLUSTRATED TALK ON ITEMS OF NATURAL HISTORY FROM ANDROS ISLAND IN THE BAHAMAS Speakers: Tracey and Janette Dean Meet: Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature, (National Museum of Natural Sciences), Metcalfe and McLeod Streets. Members of the Ottawa Banding Group visited the Forfar Field Station last February and Tracey and Janette have details of the birds they banded and also some observations on geology and fishes of the coral reef. Experienced bird banders are especially welcome to participate in this continuing project. Many of the slides were taken by Beryl Johnson.

Saturday
21 Oct.
8:00 a.m.
LATE FALL BIRDING
Leader: Roy John (226-2019)
Meet: Britannia Drive-In Theatre, Carling Avenue.
Bring a snack and binoculars for this half-day outing.

Sunday
22 Oct.
9:30 a.m.
TWELFTH ANNUAL JOINT OUTING WITH THE OTTAWA RIDEAU TRAIL CLUB IN MURPHY'S POINT PROVINCIAL PARK
Meet: Sears, Carlingwood Shopping Centre, south side,

Carling Avenue at Woodroffe Avenue.
General interest ramble exploring the trails in Murphy's Point Provincial Park where the autumn leaves should be at their best. Bring a lunch and waterproof boots. Optional stop at the Maple Bush Tea Room in Perth on the way home. Transportation by car pool. For further information, call Eileen Evans at 741-0789.

Sunday
5 Nov.
9:00 a.m.

A RAMBLE IN THE GATINEAUS
Leader: Philip Martin
Meet: Supreme Court Building, front entrance, Wellington Street.
A general interest walk to see what we can find: nuts, fruit, seeds, fungi, and so forth. Maybe even a bird. Bring a lunch and dress warmly.

Tuesday
14 Nov.
8:00 p.m.

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
A MEMBER'S LOOK AT POLAR BEAR PASS
Speaker: Bill Gummer
Meet: Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature (National Museum of Natural Sciences), Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.
Bill will share with us some of the delightful encounters of his recent visit to Polar Bear Pass.

Sunday
26 Nov.
8:00 a.m.

LATE FALL AND EARLY WINTER MIGRANTS ALONG THE OTTAWA RIVER
Leader: Tony Beck
Meet: Britannia Drive-In Theatre.

Tuesday
12 Dec.
8:00 p.m.

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
THE FON'S SENIORS FOR NATURE PROGRAM
Speaker: FON Seniors Representative
Meet: Auditorium, Canadian Museum of Nature (National Museum of Natural Sciences), Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.
The Federation of Ontario Naturalists has developed six pre-packaged colour slide shows with accompanying text for Seniors. This extensive program has been very successful in providing 15,000 seniors in the Metropolitan Toronto area with a heightened awareness of our natural world. The program is run by volunteers and is available free to our Club. Come out and learn more about this innovative new program.

Sunday 17 Dec. — THE OTTAWA-HULL NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
Participation fee: $4.00 per person
Members interested in participating should call the Club number (722-3050) or Daniel St-Hilaire (776-3822).

OTHER AREA COUNTS

Count	Date	Compiler
Pakenham - Arnprior	December 26	Michael Runtz (1-623-6975)
Carleton Place	December 31	Mike Jaques (1-257-4105)
Dunrobin - Breckenridge	to be decided	Bruce Di Labio (729-6267)

Tuesday 9 Jan. 8:00 p.m. — OFNC 111TH ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
Meet: Auditorium, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.
At this meeting we elect our Council for 1990, introduce the members that make this Club work and report on the activities of the various committees as well as the Club's financial position. This is an opportunity for you, as members, to participate with any questions and suggestions.

Sunday 28 Jan. 8:00 a.m. — WINTER BIRDING TRIP TO THE CORNWALL AREA
Leader: Bruce Di Labio (729-6267)
Meet: Sears, Carlingwood Shopping Centre, Carling Avenue at Woodroffe Avenue.
Participants will visit the Cornwall dump and both the Canadian and American sides of the Moses - Saunders Power Dam in search of interesting gulls, raptors and overwintering waterfowl. Please bring proof of citizenship for entry into the United States. To register and learn further details, telephone the leader.

REVIEW OF THE ALGONQUIN PARK MASTER PLAN

October 3rd, 1989, 7:30 p.m.

LAURIER ROOM, HOLIDAY INN MARKET SQUARE

The Ontario Parks Council will hold a public meeting to obtain public reaction to the 1989 review of the Algonquin Park master plan. It is available from park offices or by writing to the Ministry of Natural Resources, Whitney, Ontario K0J 2M0.

Ottawa was not on the original list of hearings but was included at the request of the local chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society. **Please participate.**

For further information, contact Bill Gard (729-1959).

* * * * *

THE OTTAWA DUCK CLUB

presents its

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL WILDLIFE ART SHOW AND SALE

prints - paintings - carvings

Friday	20 October	5 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Saturday	21 October	10 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Sunday	22 October	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

at Algonquin College
Lees Avenue Campus

Admission $2.00

DEADLINE: Material intended for the January - March 1990 issue must be in the Editor's hands before October 1st. Mail your manuscripts to

Elizabeth Morton
Editor, Trail & Landscape
R.R. 2
Masham, Quebec
J0X 2W0.

Elizabeth's telephone number is 456-2988.

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